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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/922,473	08/03/2001	Alex Urich	CTREE-72853(155696033-P01	7208

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EXAMINER

BOUCHELLE, LAURA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3763

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/09/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/922,473	URICH, ALEX	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Laura A. Bouchelle	3763	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,16,18-22,24 and 25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,16,18-22,24 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/25/07 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Easley (US 6599271). Easley discloses a device for preventing post occlusion flow surges during eye surgery comprising a tube, a filter housing coupled to the tube, a flow restrictor, and a filter (Abstract). Easley discloses that the flow restrictor can be less than 1.5 mm for a phacoemulsification surgery. The examiner is interpreting the limitation “fixed diameter” to mean that the diameter does not change during use of the device. Although the diameter of the

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restrictor of Easley can be adjusted to suit the needs of the procedure, it is interpreted that the diameter is "fixed" as it does not change during use; in other words, it is fixed at the appropriate diameter for the duration of the procedure. The limitation "using a flexible and resilient aspiration line...having an inner diameter between 1.5 and 2.5 millimeters" is interpreted as an intended use limitation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3, 5, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Easley.

6. Claims 3, 18, 21, 24 differ from Easley in calling for the flow restrictor to be located within an output luer attached to the filter housing. Easley discloses the flow restrictor located within the output connector 14 of the filter housing, but fails to teach that the connector is a luer. It is well known in the art to connect medical components using luer connectors. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the connector of Easley to be a luer connector.

7. Claims 5, 20 differ from Easley in calling for the input tube to have an inner diameter of between 1.5 and 2.5 millimeters. Easley is silent on the diameter of the tubing. Where the only

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difference between the prior art and the claims was a recitation of relative dimensions of the claimed device and a device having the claimed relative dimensions would not perform differently than the prior art device, the claimed device was not patentably distinct from the prior art device. See MPEP 2144.04. The device of Easley and applicant's invention are used for the same purpose, and therefore, it would be expected that the device of Easley would perform equally well if it had the dimensions as laid out in claims 5, 20.

8. Claims 21, 22 are considered to be product by process claims. These claims are not limited to the manipulations of the recited steps, only the structure implied but the steps. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. See MPEP 2113.

9. Claims 4, 19, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Easley in view of Maaskamp (US 6149633).

10. Claim 4, 19, 25 differ from Easley in calling for the flow restrictor diameter to be determined by a scaling insert. Maaskamp teaches a flow control system having a flow restrictor having the inner diameter determined by a scaling insert so that the flow of fluid can be precisely controlled. See Fig. 3. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Easley to have a scaling insert as taught by Maaskamp so that the flow of fluid can be controlled.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2-5,16,18-22,24,25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura A. Bouchelle whose telephone number is 571-272-2125. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nicholas Lucchesi can be reached on 517-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



**NICHOLAS D. LUCCHESI
SUPERVISOR OF EXAMINERS
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Laura A Bouchelle
Examiner
Art Unit 3763

